

Application/Control Number: 10/628,145

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CLMPTO

08/02/04

DB

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

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A time-of-flight mass spectrometer comprising:

an ion source that produces a primary beam of ionized particles;

transmission optics that focus said primary beam;

an extraction chamber that produces a secondary beam of ionized particles
from said primary beam;

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a flight tube that receives said secondary beam;

an acceleration chamber that directs said secondary beam into said flight tube;

an electron multiplier that receives said secondary beam and produces an electron emission in response to each particle in said secondary beam;

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a first anode that has a first electrical potential and that receives a first portion of each said electron emission and produces a first signal in response;

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a second anode that has a second electrical potential different from said first electrical potential and that receives a second portion of each said electron emission and produces a second signal in response wherein said second portion is different from said first portion due to said different second electrical potential;

a first preamplifier that receives said first signal and produces a first amplified signal in response;

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a second preamplifier that receives said second signal and produces a second amplified signal in response;

a first constant fraction discriminator that receives said first amplified signal and produces a first pulse in response;

a second constant fraction discriminator that receives said second amplified signal and produces a second pulse in response;

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a first time-to-digital converter that receives said first pulse and produces a first digital signal representative of said first pulse's time of arrival;

a second time-to-digital converter that receives said second pulse and produces a second digital signal representative of said second pulse's time of arrival; and,

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a computer that receives said first digital signal and said second digital signal and produces an ion spectrum.

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A time-of-flight mass spectrometer comprising:

an ion source that produces a primary beam of ionized particles;

transmission optics that focus said primary beam;

5 an extraction chamber that produces a secondary beam of ionized particles
from said primary beam;

a flight tube that receives said secondary beam;

an acceleration chamber that directs said secondary beam into said flight tube;

0 an electron multiplier that receives said secondary beam and produces an
electron emission in response to each particle in said secondary beam;

a first anode that receives a first portion of each said electron emission and
produces a first signal in response;

5 a second anode that receives a second portion of each said electron emission
and produces a second signal in response wherein said second portion
is different from said first portion due to the application of a magnetic
field;

a first preamplifier that receives said first signal and produces a first amplified
signal in response;

9 a second preamplifier that receives said second signal and produces a second
amplified signal in response;

a first constant fraction discriminator that receives said first amplified signal
and produces a first pulse in response;

a second constant fraction discriminator that receives said second amplified
signal and produces a second pulse in response;

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a first time-to-digital converter that receives said first pulse and produces a first digital signal representative of said first pulse's time of arrival;

a second time-to-digital converter that receives said second pulse and produces a second digital signal representative of said second pulse's time of arrival; and,

a computer that receives said first digital signal and said second digital signal and produces an ion spectrum.

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A time-of-flight mass spectrometer comprising:

an ion source that produces a primary beam of ionized particles;

transmission optics that focus said primary beam;

an extraction chamber that produces a secondary beam of ionized particles from said primary beam;

a flight tube that receives said secondary beam;

an acceleration chamber that directs said secondary beam into said flight tube;

an electron multiplier that receives said secondary beam and produces an electron emission in response to each particle in said secondary beam;

a first anode that receives a first portion of each said electron emission and produces a first signal in response;

a second anode that receives a second portion of each said electron emission and produces a second signal in response wherein said second portion is different from said first portion due to said flight tube's physical geometry;

a first preamplifier that receives said first signal and produces a first amplified signal in response;

a second preamplifier that receives said second signal and produces a second amplified signal in response;

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a first constant fraction discriminator that receives said first amplified signal and produces a first pulse in response;

a second constant fraction discriminator that receives said second amplified signal and produces a second pulse in response;

5 a first time-to-digital converter that receives said first pulse and produces a first digital signal representative of said first pulse's time of arrival;

a second time-to-digital converter that receives said second pulse and produces a second digital signal representative of said second pulse's time of arrival; and,

10 a computer that receives said first digital signal and said second digital signal and produces an ion spectrum.

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A time-of-flight mass spectrometer comprising:

an ion source that produces a primary beam of ionized particles;

transmission optics that focus said primary beam;

15 an extraction chamber that produces a secondary beam of ionized particles from said primary beam;

a flight tube that receives said secondary beam;

an acceleration chamber that directs said secondary beam into said flight tube;

20 an electron multiplier that receives said secondary beam and produces an electron emission in response to each particle in said secondary beam;

a first anode that has a first electrical potential and that receives a first portion of each said electron emission and produces a first signal in response;

25 a second anode that has a second electrical potential different from said first electrical potential and that receives a second portion of each said electron emission and produces a second signal in response wherein said second portion is different from said first portion due to the

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application of a magnetic field and said different second electrical potential;

a first preamplifier that receives said first signal and produces a first amplified signal in response;

5 a second preamplifier that receives said second signal and produces a second amplified signal in response;

a first constant fraction discriminator that receives said first amplified signal and produces a first pulse in response;

10 a second constant fraction discriminator that receives said second amplified signal and produces a second pulse in response;

a first time-to-digital converter that receives said first pulse and produces a first digital signal representative of said first pulse's time of arrival;

15 a second time-to-digital converter that receives said second pulse and produces a second digital signal representative of said second pulse's time of arrival; and,

a computer that receives said first digital signal and said second digital signal and produces an ion spectrum.

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A time-of-flight mass spectrometer comprising:

an ion source that produces a primary beam of ionized particles;

20 transmission optics that focus said primary beam;

an extraction chamber that produces a secondary beam of ionized particles from said primary beam;

a flight tube that receives said secondary beam;

an acceleration chamber that directs said secondary beam into said flight tube;

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an electron multiplier that receives said secondary beam and produces an electron emission in response to each particle in said secondary beam;

a first anode that has a first electrical potential and that receives a first portion of each said electron emission and produces a first signal in response;

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a second anode that has a second electrical potential different from said first electrical potential and that receives a second portion of each said electron emission and produces a second signal in response wherein said second portion is different from said first portion due to said flight tube's physical geometry and said different second electrical potential;

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a first preamplifier that receives said first signal and produces a first amplified signal in response;

a second preamplifier that receives said second signal and produces a second amplified signal in response;

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a first constant fraction discriminator that receives said first amplified signal and produces a first pulse in response;

a second constant fraction discriminator that receives said second amplified signal and produces a second pulse in response;

a first time-to-digital converter that receives said first pulse and produces a first digital signal representative of said first pulse's time of arrival;

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a second time-to-digital converter that receives said second pulse and produces a second digital signal representative of said second pulse's time of arrival; and,

a computer that receives said first digital signal and said second digital signal and produces an ion spectrum.

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A time-of-flight mass spectrometer comprising:

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an ion source that produces a primary beam of ionized particles;

transmission optics that focus said primary beam;

an extraction chamber that produces a secondary beam of ionized particles
from said primary beam;

5

a flight tube that receives said secondary beam;

an acceleration chamber that directs said secondary beam into said flight tube;

an electron multiplier that receives said secondary beam and produces an
electron emission in response to each particle in said secondary beam;

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a first anode that receives a first portion of each said electron emission and
produces a first signal in response;

a second anode that receives a second portion of each said electron emission
and produces a second signal in response wherein said second portion
is different from said first portion due to the application of a magnetic
field and said flight tube's physical geometry;

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a first preamplifier that receives said first signal and produces a first amplified
signal in response;

a second preamplifier that receives said second signal and produces a second
amplified signal in response;

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a first constant fraction discriminator that receives said first amplified signal
and produces a first pulse in response;

a second constant fraction discriminator that receives said second amplified
signal and produces a second pulse in response;

a first time-to-digital converter that receives said first pulse and produces a
first digital signal representative of said first pulse's time of arrival;

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a second time-to-digital converter that receives said second pulse and produces
a second digital signal representative of said second pulse's time of
arrival; and,

a computer that receives said first digital signal and said second digital signal
and produces an ion spectrum.

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A time-of-flight mass spectrometer comprising:

an ion source that produces a primary beam of ionized particles;

transmission optics that focus said primary beam;

an extraction chamber that produces a secondary beam of ionized particles
from said primary beam;

10

a flight tube that receives said secondary beam;

an acceleration chamber that directs said secondary beam into said flight tube;

an electron multiplier that receives said secondary beam and produces an
electron emission in response to each particle in said secondary beam;

15

a first anode that has a first electrical potential and that receives a first portion
of each said electron emission and produces a first signal in response;

a second anode that has a second electrical potential different from said first
electrical potential and that receives a second portion of each said
electron emission and produces a second signal in response wherein
said second portion is different from said first portion due to the
application of a magnetic field, said flight tube's physical geometry,
and said different second electrical potential;

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a first preamplifier that receives said first signal and produces a first amplified
signal in response;

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a second preamplifier that receives said second signal and produces a second
amplified signal in response;